



## **VAUGHAN-WILLIAMS SEA SYMPHONY GRAND CHORUS NEWSLETTER NO.1**

The team bids you a warm welcome to the SCCG Grand Chorus 2013! We are very excited indeed to be performing a programme of wonderful English music under the baton of Nigel Perrin on June 29 in the beautiful surroundings of Tewkesbury Abbey, not to forget Julia Hwang playing 'The Lark Ascending' under the baton of Stefan Hofkes. What treats!

We intend keeping you up-to-date by means of two or three newsletters as the weeks tick by. **Please keep a copy for future reference!** There will be a glare fit to turn you to a pillar of salt if you ask the secretary a question which has already been answered in a newsletter!

If you sang with us in 2011, you will know that the size of the chorus has been reduced from 200 to 150. This was the wish of the Abbey management, as they discovered the treasured reredos to the right of the staging did not like being moved. It will stay in situ this year, and the staging will be narrower. We have therefore fewer seats at our disposal.

To date, we have almost the full complement of alto voices, have a few bass places available, but we do need a considerable number of sopranos and (you've guessed it!) TENORS.

**NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD SINGERS TO COME TO THE AID OF THE PARTY!**

Thornbury Choral Society is the host society for this event on behalf of the SCCG project partners (Stroud, Thornbury, Wycliffe and Yate Choral Societies), but it is a real team effort; only with your active support can it be an artistic, social, and financial success.

Booking is now open for all singers - not just SCCG members. Do please ask your singing friends if they would like to join you/us; they are very welcome. The booking form for

round 4 is available on the website [sccg.info](http://sccg.info). It is important that we have a full and balanced choir. We can't do it without your assistance; word of mouth beats emails and articles hands down.

Altos - we may be able to accommodate you, and when the few remaining places have been taken, we will keep a waiting list, so do please by all means contact us for the latest state of play.

Please contact the secretary (Julia O'Connor-Beach 01454 260877) to check on availability of places, or for any other information. If you are a member of a project partner society, please see your Liaison in the first instance.

### **Who's doing What**

Chairman and Event Manager	Jos Gregson (Thornbury)
Treasurer	Alison Makepeace (Thornbury)
Secretary	Julia O'Connor-Beach (Thornbury)
Publicity	Lisa Kicinski (Thornbury)
Concert Manager	David Joyce (Thornbury)
Assistant Concert Manager	Ian Stewart (Stroud)
Stroud Liaison	Mike Maxwell
Thornbury Liaison	Alison Makepeace
Wycliffe Liaison	Rosemary Robinson
Yate Liaison	Philip Revill

### **Scores**

We will receive these from the library at the beginning of May, I to allow us to do our note-bashing prior to the start of rehearsals. As quickly as practicable, we will get the scores to you either via the Liaisons or other mysterious methods.

Should you wish to purchase your own score copies or learning CDs/MP3s, you may like to consider Music Dynamics of Stroud. Mention 'SCCG' for a 10% discount. (We do NOT get a commission.)

The Sea Symphony learning file is available free online at [cyberbass.com](http://cyberbass.com).

### **Rehearsals - for your Diary**

All information is online - [sccg.info](http://sccg.info) under 'big sing 2013'.

You are welcome to join us at either, or BOTH of the rehearsal venues.

There is a three line whip on the Nigel Perrin workshop, eve of concert rehearsal, and obviously the concert day rehearsal. Actually, for the last, a cat o' nine tails type whip.

Wycliffe College, Stonehouse on Tuesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 June  
Christ The King RC Church, Thornbury on Thursdays 6, 13, 20, 27 June

With Nigel Perrin:

Day Workshop at The Castle School, Thornbury on Saturday 15 June  
Eve of Concert Rehearsal at Christ The King RC Church, Thornbury on Friday 28 June  
Dress Rehearsal and Concert at Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday 29 June

Thornbury rehearsals will be taken by Steven Kings and accompanied by Robin Baggs, Thornbury Choral Society's regular team.

Wycliffe rehearsals will be taken by Chris Swain, Wycliffe Choral Society's founder and regular conductor and accompanied by Tom Etheridge.

Directions will be provided nearer the time.

### **Administrative Matter**

The contact details you provided on the registration form are held on a spreadsheet by SCCG secretary, Julia O'Connor-Beach. These details will be used for the purposes of managing this event, and not disclosed to any third parties. SCCG would wish to hold the details after the event in order to advise you of any future project. If you do not wish to be contacted about future projects, please advise the secretary by email and your details will be deleted after the completion of this event.

### **Saving Petrol**

For the rehearsals and workshop, to save on petrol and to ease any parking issues, and to have more fun, please do try to car-pool whenever possible. You know it makes sense! If you would like to be put in touch with someone from your neck of the woods, be it to offer or to find a lift, the secretary can help you. Please just say so.

As for concert day, Thornbury Choral Society have booked several coaches to take their singers and friends from Thornbury to Tewkesbury Abbey and to bring them back after the performance. If you live in the Thornbury area and would like to travel on one of these coaches contact Jos Gregson on 01454-411652 or by email: [jos@josgregson.plus.com](mailto:jos@josgregson.plus.com). The cost of the return trip will be £8.

If you are not in the Thornbury area and would like to travel on a group coach talk to your liaison officer and if there are sufficient singers they may arrange a coach.

### **Audience Tickets**

Your liaison officers will have audience tickets for sale up to the Saturday workshop with Nigel Perrin. Best nave seats £15, West End seats £10, aisle seats with often restricted view at £8. Tickets for under 16s at £2 can be provided - just ask your liaison officer. For non-SCCG members, please contact the secretary.

As with any performance, it is more exciting to sing to a full house, and better for the

budget, so please do ensure that you encourage family and friends to come along. Make a day of it in Tewkesbury; visit the town, the Abbey itself, walk the heritage trails, have a picnic by the river or even take a river cruise.